

Department of General Administration-Office of State Procurement and Department of Ecology
Seeks Your Input Regarding Modernizing State Purchasing Practices

Washington State buys many millions of dollars worth of goods and services each year and government purchasing (federal, state and local) makes up 20 percent of the Gross National Product. However, prior to the green movement, many everyday products and practices not only threatened our environment but also missed out on the opportunity to capitalize on economies and efficiencies that could be gained from an environmental awareness and a little ingenuity. Today, though, numerous industrious and environmentally minded firms are developing new markets and enjoying success. For example, gone are the days when spent toner cartridges get tossed into landfills as they can now be successfully recharged and resold at a significant savings. Washington State government is benefiting from such innovations and believes that many more similar opportunities exist. Even so, because state purchasing does not require consideration of the environmental attributes, new market development may be stifled and potentially at the expense of the environment and human health.

The role of purchasing is to acquire goods and services that get the job done but second to that, represent best value which should include environmental considerations. With that in mind, the departments of General Administration and Ecology are working together to modernize purchasing practices in an effort to energize marketplace innovation and result in improved best value for the state and its citizens. However, for this effort to be successful, it is vital that we capture your imagination and incorporate your input. That is why we would like to share our thoughts with you at the July 8th business planner meeting. We look forward to working with you and for you.